SRI K T, RATHOD.—The Hon'ble Member will please note that these posts were transferred, along with the respective units when the Government formed the Corporation. The Government had appointed a committee headed by Shri Devidas Menon to go into the working of the Corporation and to suggest remedies for reducing the losses. He in turn has suggested that the loss in the Corporation can be reduced, if the excess staff were to be reduced. Keeping this recommendation in view, the Government thought whether we could get rid of some of these officials, so that the Corporation's position gets improved. Even then, we feel that since they are working there, we want to consider their cases sympathetically and see that they are absorbed either in the Corporation or in the Government service.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಡಿ. ದೇವೇಗೌಡ.— ಅವರು ಅಲ್ಲಿ 5-10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ಇರಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವರು ಬಹಳ ತೊಂದರೆಗೆ ಈಡಾಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರು ಕೆಟೆಗೋರಿಕರ್ ಅಷ್ಯೂರೆನ್ಸ್ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು. ಪೇರೆಂಟ್ ಡಿಪಾರ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ಫಿಷರೀಸ್ ಡೆವಲಪ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಷನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಾಗಲಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಪುನರ್‌ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವರು ಮತ್ತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಡಿ.ಸಿ ಆಫೀಸಿಗೆ ತಿರುಗುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. I want a categorical assurance from the Hon'ble Minister that they will be reinstated in the parent department or taken in the Fisheries Development Corporation.

SRI K. T. RATHOD.—These employees will be considered for appointment either in other Departments of Government or will be absorbed in the corporation. Either of these two alternatives we are going to consider and see that the problem is solved.

(ii) *Re : Inconvenience to consumers due to presentation of bimonthly bills for electricity consumption and accumulation of arrears.*

SRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Fort) —Madam, I call the attention of the Minister of State for Information and Power to the inconvenience caused to the consumers due to presentation of bimonthly bills for electricity consumption and accumulation of arrears.

SRI B. SUBBAIAH SHETTY (Minister of State for Information and Power).—Madam, I wish to make the following statement :

My attention has been called to the inconvenience caused to consumers due to bimonthly bills for Electricity consumed and accumulation of arrears.

Bimonthly billing on domestic lighting was introduced on an experimental basis by the Karnataka Electricity Board from 26th February 1977 in the interest of economy and smooth working. This was done in a situation where there were heavy arrears of accounting

in the Divisional Offices as a result of which even current work could not be attended to up-to-date. This was mainly due to inadequacy of staff.

It may be of interest to the Hon'ble members to learn that as on 31st March 1976, there were about 11 lakhs of domestic lighting installations and the revenue demand on them for the years 1975-76 was about 7.88 crores The average revenue per installation worked out to Rs. 72 per annum and the average cost in billing each instalation worked out to Rs. 18 per annum, excluding expenditure on getting the energy at the consumer's doors and indirect expenditure on supervision and stationery etc., It indicates a need to secure economics in expenditure on billing. Bimonthly billing would go a long away in securing this end.

It would also interest the house to know that the Central Government had constituted a Working Group to review the financial working of the State Electricity Boards and one of the recommendations made by the working group and accepted by the Ministry of Energy and commended to the State Electricity Boards for implementation was that Bimonthly or even quarterly billing systems may be introduced for domestic and commercial consumers in whose case the average revenue collections per consumers are low. Such consumers may make fixed amount payments in the intervening months.

Introduction of bimonthly billing will not result in inconvenience to any consumer as anyone who wishes to pay every month is free to do so on a proportionate basis. Karnataka Electricity Board has given wide publicity to this procedure in March 1977. The savings in staff consequent on the introduction of bimonthly billing is 242. No retrenchment will however, be effected and the surplus staff will be adjusted against available vacancies.

ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ. ಆರ್. ಶಾಮಣ್ಣ.— ಈಗ ಏರೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಸಿಟಿ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗೆ ಕೋಟ್ಯಾಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗ ಳಷ್ಟು ಬಾಕಿ ಬರಬೇಕಾದ್ದು ಇದೆ. 2 ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಸಾರಿ ಲೈಟ್‌ಬಿಲ್ ಕಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿ ದರೆ ಯಾರೂ ಬಾಕಿ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಇದನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೀರಿ. ಆದರೆ ಅವರು 2 ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಸಾರಿ ಬರ್ ಕಟ್ಟಬೇಕಾದರೂ ಸಾಲ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಕಟ್ಟುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಇದರಿಂದ ಆರಿಯರ್ಸ್ ನಿಂತು ಹೋದರೆ ಏರೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಸಿಟಿ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ನವರಿಗೆ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗಿ ಇದರಿಂದ ನಮಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಖರ್ಚಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೇ ? ವಾಟರ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ನವರು ವಾಟರ್ ಬಿಲ್ಲನ್ನು ಪೆಡ್ಡೂರ್ಲ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಹಾಗೆ ತಾವು ಅವರು ಲೈಟ್ ಬಿಲ್ಲನ್ನು ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಅನೇಕರು ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲೈಟ್ ಬಿಲ್ಲನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವರು ಇರುವ ದುಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಖರ್ಚುಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಟ್ಟರ ಮುಂದೆ ಕಟ್ಟುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ದಯಮಾಡಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಲೈಟ್ ಬಿಲ್ಲನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಏರ್ಪಾಡು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಅವರು ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೊಂದು ಸಾರಿ ಲೈಟ್ ಬಿಲ್ಲನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುವುದನ್ನು ತಾವು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೀರಾ ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ.— ಅದನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.